

Interior Department, the Treasury Department, and the White House National Economic Council. I am hopeful that all of the progress that was undertaken on this issue last year will continue, and that the Congress and the Bush Administration will move quickly on this legislation this Congress.

**ZERO TOLERANCE FOR VIOLENCE  
AGAINST CHILDREN: "MATTHEW'S LAW"**

**HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2001*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce "Matthew's Law."

Aimee Willard, Polly Klaas, Megan Kanka, and Matthew Cecchi, have one thing in common. They were children struck down by killers. Mr. Speaker, I believe that every Member in the House is tired of having to name bills after murdered children. We must work to prevent the killing by severely punishing those who take young lives.

In November 1998, 9-year-old Matthew Cecchi was brutally murdered in Oceanside, CA. Matthew was not a troubled runaway. He was not a child that was allowed to wander far from his parents. He was not abducted or stolen. He simply walked into a public restroom alone. While his aunt waited outside, he was brutally murdered. His killer Brandon Wilson carefully stalked and hunted down this young and helpless child. This crime shocked our community and struck fear in the hearts of parents. Even today, communities in my district are building co-ed bathrooms for parents to use with children to ensure that this does not happen again. Nevertheless, parents should not fear taking their children to the park. They should not fear letting their children go to the bathroom. Our parks and public lands should be free from crime, free from fear and free from terror.

That is why I am reintroducing "Matthew's Law," to ensure that those who seek to harm the helpless are met with severe punishment, and to prevent crime by increasing the certainty of justice.

"Matthew's Law," will increase sentencing requirements for those individuals who commit federal violent crimes against children under 13 years of age. It directs the U.S. Sentencing Commission to increase by five levels the punishment for a crime of violence against a child. In most cases, this will result in a doubling of the punishment, and in the most violent cases increase the chance for life in prison or the death penalty.

I believe that this additional punishment is important to deter violence against our children.

"Matthew's Law" also directs the FBI to make available, when possible, assistance if requested by local law enforcement when a child is killed. In the case of Matthew Cecchi, it was not until his killer made another attack that he was captured. When a killer takes one of our children, we must mobilize our resources to stop that killer before he strikes again.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation tells killers and violent felons that our parks and public lands are for families and children, not for murderers.

This legislation is about national leadership. It shows the States and local communities that the Federal Government will not tolerate violence against our children. And hopefully, they will follow our lead on this issue.

This legislation is supported by the National Office of the Fraternal Order of Police, the Law Enforcement Association of America, and the family of Matthew Cecchi who never wants another family to face the tragedy they have seen.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation and a similar measure both passed with more than 400 votes on the House floor. On June 16, 1999, it passed as an amendment to juvenile justice, and similar bill passed on May 7, 1996. This is sound legislation that will protect our children, and this Congress should pass it right away.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting "Matthew's Law."

**DEATH OF JERRY LEE YEAGLEY**

**HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2001*

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today, I am deeply saddened to share the news of the passing of Jerry Lee Yeagley.

Jerry Lee Yeagley was born on May 30, 1943 to Arthur J. and LaRue Mellott Yeagley. He married Rebecca Jones and together they had two sons, Trent and Corey.

Jerry Lee Yeagley was deeply involved in civic affairs. He served as Green Township, Ohio trustee and was in charge of record keeping for Green Township Cemetery. A dedicated individual, he had perfect attendance at Greenford Ruritan Club meetings for 29 years, where he served as director. He was employed at Salem Fruit Growers in Greenford, Ohio and was a former member of the Green Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Jerry Lee Yeagley will be sorely missed in the Greenford community. He was a fine man, thoroughly dedicated to his family and his community. I extend my deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

**HONORING MIRIAM COSTELLO**

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2001*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Miriam Costello for receiving the honor of Businesswoman of the Year 2000 by the Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce.

Miriam was born in Salt Lake City, Utah. Her family moved to California and in 1945 she graduated from Oakland High School. She spent her first summer in California working in the Yosemite Lodge Cafeteria during World War II. In the fall of 1945, she enrolled at U.C. Berkeley and married her high school sweetheart, Kevin Costello, soon thereafter. Miriam then decided to dedicate her time, love, and energy to raising the wonderful family she boasts today.

After her children matured, Miriam returned to college and became an interior designer, earning her degree at U.C.L.A. and the New York School of Interior Design. She then joined the San Diego Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID).

Miriam's first shop, one of eleven, was in Montrose, CA. After Montrose, shops were established in La Canada, Solana Beach, San Diego, Encinitas, and Mariposa.

When her husband retired from his teaching career in 1991, she opened "Jailhouse Square" and made her permanent home in Mariposa. Three years ago Miriam opened "Miriam & Co." She was joined in this venture by Trish Nady of "Artistic Creations" and Sue Dole of "Frankie Sues Antiques and Stuff." Miriam recently opened the "Patent Leather Tea/Coffee Room," also in Mariposa.

Miriam is now a proud grandmother of eleven.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to Miriam Costello for being named Businesswoman of the Year 2000. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Miriam Costello many more years of continued success.

**TRIBUTE TO CHARLES C.  
DERAMUS OF PRATTVILLE, AL**

**HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2001*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has set the standard for public service serving as a role model for Alabama and the greater housing community. Charles C. DeRamus has been responsible for housing almost 25,000 low and moderate income Alabamians helping them to achieve the American Dream. As he retires from his almost 40 year career with the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Charles leaves a legacy of good works and responsible governing.

Charles began his career with USDA when it was known as the Farmers Home Administration. He has been directly involved in the supervision of the Administration in several Alabama counties including Etowah, Choctaw, Randolph, and Dallas. He knows Alabama well and has become an expert in rural housing serving as the Rural Housing Chief for the state office from 1983 to 1994. Most recently, he has served as the Single Family Housing Program Director for Alabama overseeing thousands of loans and grants.

Charles' hard work has made a real difference for families trying to get on their feet and become self-sufficient. I wish to take this opportunity to thank him for his exemplary role as a leader in our community. As he retires though, I do want to warn the wildlife of Alabama that DeRamus is a free man, since I know he will spend a great deal of time enjoying hunting and fishing.

I join USDA in commending him for making Alabama a better place to live and raise a family. I share their pride in and gratitude for the accomplishments of Charles C. DeRamus. On behalf of the U.S. Congress, I thank him for a job well done and wish him a well-deserved rest.